The Newsletter of the Seattle Bisexual Women's Network, a member project of Gay Community Social Services

NORTH Bi NORTHWEST

JUNE/JULY 1993 VOLUME 6, NUMBER 3

BIG GROUP AND BIG FUN AT BINET NATIONAL CONFERENCE

by Erica Avery

I'm not going to write a standard "first we did this and then we did this" write-up of the March on Washington/National Bi Conference weekend - if you were there you know what happened and if you weren't you'd just get jealous hearing about how great it was. If you want all the BiNet information you'll join BiNet and get a newsletter subscription. Besides, of the 3 surveys we got back, 33.3% of the respondents said they didn't want to hear the details of what people did on their weekends. So I'm going to tell you what the weekend made me think about.

The week before the March the statistics about gay people being only 1% of the population came out. If I believed that, then considering the circle I've traveled in and the events I've been to, I figure in my short life I must have seen, if not met, every gay person in the U.S. And if you do the math and don't believe the Park Service Estimates of the March crowd, and at least half of all the queers in the country were there, then how come I didn't recognize anybody?

But seriously, since there were only 9 Seattlites marching with the Bi contingent (we had to have strangers help carry our banners) and only 5 SBWN women there, it really hit home how many of us there must be all over. A few hundred bis in Seattle didn't get to DC. Granted, Seattle is just about as far from DC as you can get, but if most people there represented half the numbers I did...it's definitely a Queer Nation.

The Bi Conference was a lot of fun. It was the first National Conference I'd been to. I got to connect a lot of names I'd read and heard to the faces I saw. I met some bis from other cities and had some cool conversations with some cool people. I even ran into a couple of old friends. But there were times I had the feeling that living out on the West Coast and being pretty new to the scene, there was a clique I just wasn't going to be part of. I've seen the dynamic before where a group of activists focuses in on itself - partly because they can't count on anyone else for sure - and they burn out fast. I hope this sort of thing won't happen with BiNet.

I don't really think big groups work too well for meetings or conferences. I liked our Northwest regional one - there were about 50 of us and it was possible to meet and talk to everyone. The annual meeting in DC was about 150 people sitting in a giant circle. It started off in the morning having the 6 national coordinator's be introduced and then getting into business. I felt like part of a nameless mass.

It might be a personal thing too - I'm not a very huggy person and a lot of the bi crowd I meet seem to be. It makes me think they know each other, maybe better than they really do. But I got the feeling at the conference that I've often gotten in the Lesbian community, that everyone there is there to be with their friends and not too interested in making new ones. The only 2 people who approached me all weekend were 2 men - one I caught staring at me and he said he was "just admiring", the other saw me dancing next to a man and asked "is that your boyfriend?" The next day he was wearing a Men's Anti-Sexist something or other T shirt.

It was a great conference though - the workshop I went to on putting theory into practice gave me a lot to think about. I think everyone was moved by Sheilah Mabry and Elias Farajaje-Jones' speeches. There was ASL interpretation and Braille and audio versions of the pro-

(Continued on page 7)

Apriil 25 1993: Bis carrying our banner on the mall after a long day of marching: Rob, Anna, James, Peggy, Erica, ben *pboto by Drew*

North Bi Northwest

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Advertising Manager
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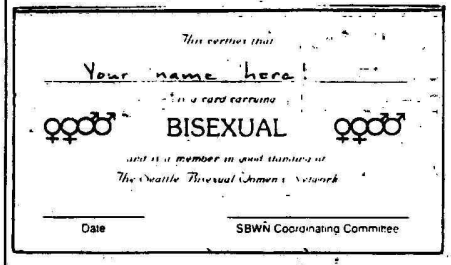
SBWN Statement of Purpose

We are a group of feminists working to create a bisexual support network and to promote equality for bisexual people in both the heterosexual and lesbian/gay communities. We regard ourselves as part of the larger sexual minority community, and consider the fight for lesbian/gay rights to be our own. We are dedicated to the right of all people to define their own sexuality, free from any social, political or economic coercion. We seek to provide a safe place for women to explore all aspects of their sexuality. All women are welcome to attend SBWN activities. While we work with men on issues of common interest, our group is exclusively female to keep the concerns of women in the forefront of our work.

The discrimination we face as women and as sexual minorities is only one facet of oppression: all bigotry is our enemy. We stand behind the racial and ethnic liberation movements and the struggle for economic equality. However, in any work we do, feminism and the interests of women will be our central concern.

Seattle Bisexual Women's Network, P.O. Box 30645; Greenwood Station Seattle, WA 98103-0645, (206) 783-7987.

Join the Seattle Bisexual Women's Network and become a card-carrying bisexual!



☐ $12 quarterly membership.

☐ $25 Bi-Lover quarterly membership

☐ $100 Bi-Goddess membership

☐ I don't easily fit into a category $____

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North Bi Northwest is a publication of the Seattle Bisexual Women's Network, a member project of Gay Community Social Services, PO Box 22228, Seattle, WA 98122. (Not for correspondence with SBWN.)

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SBWN election results (held May 23):

Secretary: Peggy
Treasurer: Brenda
Newsletter editors: Erica and Dawn
GCSS liason: Lizabeth
Facilitator/topic coordination for meetings: The Facilitator's collective
Phones: Susan W, Ellen

MEETING NOTES

Stories from a sexy Monday meeting of SBWN, each written by a group of women:

Walking through Woodland Park Zoo...the morning dew glistening on the lawn was so inviting I had to lie in the mist. At first the sudden coldness caused me to shiver, but it settled to a comforting excitement as I let the moistness of it all ravage my entire body, sending tingles up and down my soul. It was the greatest feeling my heart had ever felt. I felt completely satisfied in a sensual way; I could have written a love song. I could have floated to heaven. I wanted to shout my happy feelings for everyone to hear.

As we passed by the lions in their cage, we climbed over the gate and lay our bodies on the lawn. I pulled out the honey, poured it over her body, then licked it off very slowly. The lions came by to join in.

We left the lion cage and stopped to watch other animals mating on our way to the gate.

By this time, the dew of the late Spring morning melted into the hot afternoon. We walked arm in arm through the park and found refuge and privacy under a tree. She used her shirt to sit on and invited me to join her. I declined, and used my own shirt to tie her hands behind her back. She gasped and screamed with excitement. I always thought of her as so timid, but I knew different and now was my chance to prove it. She was screaming in ecstasy and I felt the rhythm of her orgasm, and the shocked response of the crowd now watching us. I looked up to see a cop standing over us holding handcuffs.▼

• •

I am sitting at the corner table in the restaurant, reflecting on the past week's events, when I catch the soft but intense look of the woman at a nearby table.

We smile at each other and both understand. She walks over to my table and sits down, her jade-green eyes never leaving mine.

I feel immobilized, though everything inside me soon feels like a tempest. I want to drown myself in those eyes. Her gaze is milking me of my sexual essence. It is as if I am in a trance; one made only to follow the commands of those jade-green pools. Finally, the mutual feelings of sexual attraction become too overpowering. We can't wait to depart the restaurant to find a private place to bring our souls together in an everlasting love.▼

• •

It is a muggy, stormy night. I'm walking in a mild drizzle, surveying the damage inflicted by the earthquake.

It's starting to rain harder. I see the remnants of a church. I haven't been in a church since I was a child. My clothes are getting soaked, so I go into the half-demolished building for shelter.

I know I'm alone. The wind is starting to blow and there are rain droplets coming through the roof. I have the urge to remove my clothing and feel the elements on my naked body. Now the rain and wind are masaging my skin.

I kneel down and reach up to embrace the storm. My hair is drenched; I reach back to tie it up on my head. Water is running down my neck.

I bring my hand up and trace the rivulets that lead to the swollen, throbbing hot river of my own. My fingers caress my lips. As I start exploring inside, I begin rocking back and forth, slowly picking up speed until control is no longer there nor wanted, just myself and the wet earth exploding in ripples of sexual orgasm!▼

From the EDITORS

Well, here comes Summer again. Those of us in the Northwest have been waiting quite a while, but it looks as if the sun will shine on our Pride Festivals and gatherings.

Hopefully, you lucky ones who got to attend the March in DC aren't burned out on marches and crowds; important as that march was, it's more important for us to be out and visible in our OWN communities. The people we live, shop, and work with are the ones that need to be shown that we 're not just stereotypes. Local Pride celebrations tend to be more diverse anyway, since it's not just the folks that could afford to fly into DC, but ALL our neighbors and friends.

As you can see, it seems that SBWN has worked out some of the wrinkles that have been cropping up as of late. Hopefully, the new board and facilitators collective can be as responsive to the members as all would like. We'll just have to keep working together and see what we can become.

Take care and see you soon!

-Dawn and Erica

Snoring Fantasy Brewed on a Metro Bus After a Graveyard Shift

You nudge me to stop the snores.
I would, those damn-all
weird organic Dr. Disgusto
snorts from Hell
jerk ME out of the
twilight zone between waking and sleeping

You nudge harder, I levitate,
somewhere, Hulk Hogan is aghast
at our technique;
pillows fly, sheets and blankets shred willingly

You are on top
and in me
and in me
uniquely qualified to be
real deep in me

I'm quite happy to be cured of snoring
this way

-Thornton Kimes

News

The Freedom Day Committee (FDC) is organizing the annual Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Pride Parade/March and Freedom Rally in Seattle. The big day is Sunday, June 27, 1993. This will be the 11th year that the FDC has organized this event, and the 18th year Seattle has hosted this special occasion.

People worldwide celebrate the birth of the modern Lesbian/Gay rights movement that began in June of 1969 at New York City's Stonewall Inn., Patrons of the Inn rioted against police harassment creating a spontaneous outburst demanding respect for all. We honor that event with a day to celebrate and to continue our protest against inequalities. Featured speakers this year include Harvey Fierstein, famed author and actor of Torch Song Trilogy, Donna Redwing - Advocate's Woman of the Year and noted Oregon activist against Initiative 9, as well as our own Sherry Harris. A wide variety of entertainment will also be featured on this year's stage.

Assembly for the Parade/March will be at 12th and Pike on Capitol Hill, June 27 at 9:00 am. Step off time is 11:00 am, marching down Pike towards Broadway, then north to Volunteer Park. The Rally with speakers and entertainment will begin at 1:30 pm and continue till 6:00 pm.

The Freedom Day Committe is in desperate need of help, they need YOU to make sure the Parade and Rally will be as excellent as always. For more information and to volunteer please call (206) 292-1035.▼

The Sixth North American Conference on Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Studies - "InQueery / InTheory / InDeed" - will be held in Iowa City, Iowa, from November 17-20, 1994. The conference is sponsored by The University of Iowa Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Staff and Faculty Association, and by the Society for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Studies.

A national conference on lesbian and gay studies was first called in 1987 at Yale University. Growing from the 300 people who attended that conference to the more than 3,000 participants at the recent Princeton-Rutgers conference, this gathering has featured many voices in its keynote presentations, including Marlon Riggs, Vito Russo, Cherrie Moraga, and Catharine Stimpson. The 1994 conference will also feature enterainment, book exhibits, artists, papers/panel presentations, workshops, performance art, and activism/pedagogy roundtables relating to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer studies. Conference registration fees will be on a sliding fee/pay-what-you-will scale.

Persons interested in submitting a paper, refereeing, adding their name to the conference mailing list, participating as an exhibitor, covering the conference in a newsletter or other publication, or making a contribution to the conference fund should contact the Conference Chair, Geeta Patel (319) 335-3555, or write to the 1994 Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Studies Conference Steering Committee, c/o WRAC, 310 Madison St., University of Iowa, Iowa City IA 52242.

Registration materials will be sent to all who submit paper or presentation proposals; otherwise, contact the Center for Conferences and Institutes, I.I.I., 249 Iowa Memorial Union, Iowa City, IA 52242-1317; phone (319) 335-3231.▼

On June 6, 1993, Seattle NOW is sponsoring a brunch to promote understanding and tolerance among all women - lesbian, straight and bisexual women. The Brunch, "Come Out, Come Out Wherever You Are/Come Out, Come Out Whoever You Are" will be held at the Wildrose at 11:30 am and will provide an opportunity for women of different sexual orientations to discuss their similarities and their fears. Speakers will include Kyle Dietrich, former President of PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays); Teresa Jones, social worker and member of the Lesbian community; and a member of the bisexual women's community. There will also be an opportunity for discussion and sharing of personal experiences of those in attendance.

Seattle NOW believes that the only way we can prevent hate mongering and intolerance from spreading is for people to get to know each other. We hope programs like this Brunch will dispel myths and stereotypes that we have of each other and promote understanding and a sense of community among all women. We look forward to making this type of get-together a regular event

The Wildrose is located at 1021 E Pike on Capitol Hill. For more information contact Louise Chernin (206) 632-8547.▼

Children With Gay and Lesbian Parents-The children of lesbian and gay parents need peer support and a sense of belonging. The new Support Group for Older Kids creates a safe place for kids to talk with other kids who understand, with the guidance of two adult facilitators.

Meetings: 3-4:30 pm, third Sunday afternoon every month. Place: Lambert House (Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Youth Center) 1818 15th Ave, Seattle.▼

Hey Check It Out! The May 5 issue of the Seattle Weekly had a short article in its first few pages about the Seattle Gay Pride Parade, and the accompanying photograph was a shot of SBMU and BiNet marchers, with banners prominently displayed! The Weekly doesn't have a good track record of printing our event announcements, but we're happy to be chosen to represent Queer Pride and we appreciate the visibility. It just goes to show: Gay, Bi — het papers don't make a distinction.▼

There's a new catalogue of Bisexual T-shirts, buttons, jewelry, and other assorted paraphernalia! Check it out in time for the Pride March! Contact: Julie Firman, S. Florida Bisexual Network, 6835 SW 45th Ln #8, Miami, FL 33155.▼

The local 'zine 'hel's kitchen' is having a film and performance benefit for its next issue on June 4 at 8pm at 9.1.1. Media Arts Center, $5 admission. hel's kitchen is a Feminist Anarchist Queer xerox publication by and for people of various genders and sexual orientations. The next issue will be out June 21st. Issues are $2.50 each or $10 for a year subscription (4 issues). hel's kitchen seeks submissions of cartoons, comics, essays, poetry, and anything that can be reproduced in black and white. The next deadline is August 15, they can be reached at PO Box 85541 Seattle, WA 98145▼

GCSS UPDATE

For those of you who don't know, SBWN is a member of Gay Community Social Services (GCSS). In anticipation of Pride Day, here's a brief note about who they are and what they do.

GCSS was founded in 1972 in order to provide grants and "umbrella" 501(c) tax-exempt status to various sexual minority communities. The grants, awarded once a year to members, often are used for cultural events or research projects. Over the years, GCSS has offered expertise and funding to a variety of constituent groups such as SBWN , Stonewall Youth, Heart to Art, Advocates for Abused and Battered Lesbians, Lavender Panthers, and many others. Currently, they consist of: Heart to Art, RFD, SBWN, Gay & Lesbian Coalition of Snohomish County, Friends of March on Washington, and Stonewall Youth.

Four new groups have joined this year; they are Women Coming Out: 30 Years and Older (a research project), United Front Against Fascism, League for Lesbian and Gay Prisoners (an advocacy group), Celebrating Washington's Gay and Lesbian Citizens (a photography exhibit), and, pending legal review, Beyond Chaos (a needle-exchange project in the University District).

In the future, GCSS hopes to purchase a building to house a Community and Cultural Center. Wouldn't that be great?! If you are interested in donating to, or volunteering for GCSS, or have any questions about the procedures for application, please contact: GCSS, P.O. Box 22228, Seattle, WA 98122, (206) 292-5144.▼

Submissions of poetry, letters, prose etc. written to or for those who have died of AIDS (or are HIV+)are needed for a book. Profits will benefit AIDS organizations. Send submissions to Mary Sanders, the Nat Foundation, PO Box 308, Briarcliff, NY 10510.▼

THE SBWN FACILITATOR'S COLLECTIVE IS HERE

The Facilitators' Collective was conceived after many women (more than fifteen!) from the Monday night group arranged to participate in a facilitators' training workshop with Sandra Jo Palmer, a professional facilitator with the Lesbian Resource Center. The workshop introduced and developed principles of strong facilitation and encouraged its participants to create this new SBWN Facilitators' Collective.

While we are still working out the clear parameters of our tasks and missions, the Collective meets approximately every two weeks. We gather to hone our skills as discussion-leaders, to review meeting-goers' feedback (collected anonymously at most meetings with a shoebox), to discuss topic ideas and to plan future meetings. The Collective has also been a source of support for its members as many of us are new to any sort of facilitation. Our new skills in leading group discussion, making decisions on topics and methods, listening actively, confronting difficult issues and other aspects to strong facilitation have allowed us to create a uniquely challenging and rewarding support group out of the Facilitators' Collective itself.

Much of our operating structure is still in the making. We are now just deciding on such things as length of volunteer comitment, how and when new members will be trained, and how each facilitator will choose a topic. We are a collective, organized around the idea that no one person's input weighs more heavily than another's, and as such, all in the group are equal. We have a few guiding principles: to work to ensure that both groups, the Monday and Sunday night meetings, have facilitators; to ensure that the facilitator can create a safe space for all bi-positive women when they attend SBWN meetings; to work from the feedback we receive from the meeting-goers and try to meet members' needs as much as possible. We are in our infancy as a group, growing and learning as we go , but these three tasks are our most important.

The Facilitators' Collective needs more volunteers! Our nine current members are not enough to ensure that each and every Sunday and Monday night meeting has a facilitator. As a collective, we share responsibility so no one person is overly burdened, but there is just too much work for our small group. The rewards are tremendous: valuable experience gained in leading discussion groups (no experience needed beforehand), gentle and constructive feedback from supportive peers, the knowledge that one is contributing priceless volunteer time to a needy and worthwhile organization such as SBWN. Talk to the facilitator of the next meeting you attend about how to join SBWN's future!▼

The Lori Thing

I met her in the 8th grade,
chasing and hitting two
boys;
she had nice biceps,
I was impressed.

It would be nice to meet
another Lori,
racing down a Seattle
street,
chasing two terrified men,
gettin' ready to kick ass

-Thornton Kimes

Personal Ad

Lonely fat bi guy. NEED friends to hang out with, hope to eventually find a mostly primary (preferably male) lover. I'm usually shy, quiet, stimulated by and powerfully attracted to strong, energetic, charismatic, artistic/literary people; but that's not 'gospel'. You don't have to look like Arnie Schwarzendumbo to catch MY interest, tho I do drool at muscles like anyone else!

Respond to Box ZZ, c/o SBWN PoBox 30645, Seattle 98103-0645▼

Ask Herculine

Let's face it, we all have our problems. Whether it's a perilous polyfidelitous predicament or simply how to shop for latex, North Bi Northwest is here to help you out with our Bi Advice column. In keeping with the spirit of Bisexuality, we are offering more than one answer to each question. Send your queer-ies to PO Box 30645, our wisdom-mongers are standing bi.

Dear Ms. BiAdvisor,

I've known Cheryl for about six months. We're not buddies, but friendly. We like each other and talk sometimes. She's recently been happily talking about her new girlfriend, falling in love and such. I've been distantly acquainted with this girlfriend for a few years. I mostly know her through hearing about her from her ex-girlfriends. I know half a dozen women who illustrate her reputation of aggressively pursuing a woman as long as there's resistance. Then once she's had a successful conquest, she loses interest and the relationship fades. Is it reasonable for me to warn Cheryl to be prepared for, or at least aware of this history? Or are we all to be left to make our own discoveries?

Kathryn M.

Dearest Kathryn M.,

This friend, Cheryl, who has a new girlfriend, has she come to you often or at any time for guidance? If so, then when she does regarding her new love, that would be the appropriate time to address your concerns, assuming they are just that: concerns for a friend's welfare. However, you clearly state you are not buddies with Cheryl, therefore why would you feel the need to warn her of something that may or may not be true. Through times in your own life you've probably encountered ex-lovers who do not portray a pretty picture of you. Keep that in mind and be wary of spreading rumors. You are obviously a caring person, so be a friend-buddy to Cheryl if things don't work out with her new love.

Queen of Spades

Dear Kathryn M-

Well, dear, you certainly have Cheryl's new love pegged, don't you? Is there any room for possibility in your life? Do you ever stand at the window in morning sipping a cup of espresso and shiver with excitement, not knowing how the day is going to end? Get a life, girl! Get a lover! If you're Cheryl's buddy, be prepared to find her a therapist or to stand up for her at a commitment ceremony - you don't know what's going to happen. Only we goddesses know the future, and sometimes we goof. No big deal! It's being alive.

Aphrodite

Why it isn't Safe to Work in a Laundromat

Friendly Neighborhood laundromat attendant,
cleaning up before closing;
in walks Marlboro Man and his Boy Wonder.
Weary bod, deep-fried mind, but the
lust button can still be pushed, the
dream program plays with the usual
dolby force intensity,
removing all but the most automatic
fragments of civilized behavior.

Thornton Kimes

Support groups, **housing file,** *fiction,* **non-fiction,** ***magazines,*** newspapers, *emergency referrals,* **service referrals - accountants, attorneys, carpenters, chiropractors, dentists, lawncare, plumbers, therapists - dances,** coming out groups, safe sex kits, **a place to hang out...**

All at the **Lesbian Resource Center**

1208 E. Pine
Seattle, WA 98122
206/322-3953

"I was just going to stay home and watch the Brady Bunch marathon on Nick at Night, but then I picked up my copy of the *LRC Community News* and it said there was a great band playing. That was so much fun. And while I was reading I saw that there was this softball tournament this weekend so I'm definitely going to watch that. And I saw that there's a rap group this Wednesday night. And I saw an ad for a mechanic so I think I'll finally get my car fixed...."

LRC Community News.
$12 a year by mail or available from newsstands, bookstores and bars all around town.

1208 E. Pine
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206/322-3953

SBWN FORMS NEW STRUCTURE FOR THE FUTURE

by Erica Avery

On Sunday, April 4, about 20 women of SBWN spent a sunny afternoon indoors hammering out some of the issues that have troubled our group, and laying the ground for a new improved group structure.

A major problem has been a lack of communication between different segments of the group. The role of the Facilitator's Collective (FC) and the history of the Coordinating Committee (the two main decision-making bodies) were explained. In an effort to bridge the gaps between them, it was decided that the women in these two bodies would all meet and work together as the SBWN Board.

The Coordinating Committee (CC) has mainly been a group of women, each with her own job to do. The FC, in contrast, has collective responsibilities of providing facilitation for meetings and is intended to provide support and training to facilitator's, and will therefore need to meet on its own between board meetings. See related story on the FC in this issue.

The Board as a whole will probably meet every other month; the next meeting is June 9 at Erica's. All women are welcome to attend board meetings, whether they are interested in becoming involved in any current aspect of the group, have ideas about new directions for the group, or just want to observe.

The Board will make business decisions for the group on a consensus basis, unless they seem controversial, in which case they will be brought to the general membership. Business meetings will continue to be held every other Sunday night at 6pm; there will be announcements and calendar items then, and any woman is welcome to raise business issues or questions at this time.

Other issues discussed on April 4 were: the suggestion to remove the word "feminist" from the Statement of Purpose (a proposal some women strongly opposed); whether to continue to hold business meetings on Sunday nights since many women aren't interested in them; how much support to give to Newcomers (a buddy system?); and the appropriateness of the tone behind the title "Newcomer's group."

On Sunday, May 16, the first board meeting was held, which about 10 women attended. Items discussed included the need to keep the phone message more up to date, and how much autonomy the FC should have to make its own decisions, as well as the need for fundraising.

The facilitator's collective worked out what to do if there's no facilitator for a particular meeting (hoping this will never happen, of course). They'll first call on the board, then other former facilitators, for volunteers. It was agreed that it's OK to have untrained, on-the-spot facilitation for the Sunday meetings, but that Monday meetings need trained leadership. If no one can be found to commit to attending a particular meeting- at least to unlock the door, collect rent, etc- someone will put a "No meeting tonight" notice on the door.

Some women expressed a dissatisfaction with the current lack of political focus in SBWN compared to previous years. It was proposed that Monday night meetings be devoted more to support-type discussions, and Sunday meetings be spent planning what we can DO in the way of outreach, education, and action to promote Bi women's visibility.

Thanks to Peggy Walsh for taking the notes that contributed to this article.▼

BINET CONFERENCE...

(Continued from page 1)

gram provided. There was original music and an erotic reading. The meeting was long and frustrating but would have been worse if it weren't so well facilitated. And, of course, there were hundreds of Bi friendly people talking about just about everything you could imagine.

Saturday night's dance was strange - the music caused me a few unpleasant frat party flashbacks. I tried to dance but when "Louie Louie" came on I gave up. And the "Safer Sex Sluts" treated us to a demo that included an SM scene, something I didn't' appreciate having sprung on me. I didn't go to the Sex Positivism workshop (I'd prefer to discuss Sex Metaphysics), but my friend did and said he felt the group was unreceptive to talking about issues of power in relation to sex. I support the rights of SM practitioners as sexual "minorities" like myself, but can we at least ask questions about this stuff without being call sex-negative or "white feminists"? A woman at the meeting raised the simple question "what is sex positivism" (there is a focus group on it) and immediately got a lecture on our heterosexist Christian Fundamentalist Right Wing culture. Perplexed and still looking for a definition she tried again, only to be met with a response so tense that a vibe check had to be called for and the matter dropped.

Sunday's march was BIG. So big it had to be re-routed, so big it started about 2 hours late. So big I never really felt I was in the center of it like I have in DC Pro-Choice marches, in Seattle's or even in New York's Pride Parade. I didn't know I was queer in 1987 so I can't compare it to that march.

The point of the march was to show our numbers and we did, but I guess I'm basically disenchanted with BIG things right now (like the US, for example). Like at the conference, being around a bunch of queer strangers may be fun or even empowering, but it isn't community building. The march was predominantly young able-bodied white men, and wealthy ones, judging from the gobs of paraphernalia they were buying. An event like this will naturally attract mainly people who can afford to take off work and buy a ticket to get there. The people who can't remain left out and invisible. We did some lobbying, got on the news, and got together the event we said we would, but mostly we left the mall covered in litter (recyclable paper) and poured millions of dollars into several major airlines, at least one of whose employees have been quoted making anti-gay comments.

I'm glad I went - just getting on a DC metro and seeing it packed with queers is a heady experience. And I was glad to show gays and lesbians that Bis made an effort to come all the way from Seattle for this. I hope we put the energy we generated to good use.▼

Calendar

For location, confirmation, or general information call the phone message machines. For SBWN events: 783-7987. for Seattle Bisexual Men's Union (SBMU) and BiNet events: 720-4506

Tuesday June 2 Dance at Re-Bar, 1114 Howell St., 10pm, $5-$10 donation requested. Fundraiser for Seattle's Freedom Day/Pride celebration, event sponsored by BiNet.*

Sunday June 6 SBWN meeting, 6pm

Wednesday June 9 SBWN board meeting at Erica's, 7pm

Friday June 11 BiNet meeting, Lynne's, 7pm (may be replaced by starting the retreat early (see below), call bi-phone to check)*

Saturday June 12-Sunday June 13 BI Vision camping trip and planning retreat (tentative, call bi-phone to check)*

Saturday June 12 Big Bi Fun Club meets at 9pm at Bulldog News in the Broadway Market, tonight and every other Saturday night "throughout eternity."*

Sunday June 13 SBMU meeting, 7pm, Seattle Central Community College (SCCC) portable B107. Discussion topic: men and intimacy

Monday June 14 SBWN Newcomer's meeting, 7:15pm

Thursday June 17 Bi-Lines meeting at Miles', 7pm*

Sunday June 20 Regular SBWN meeting cancelled. Instead: BI-B-Q at Lynnes, 4pm. Children welcome.*

Sunday June 20 Pridefest, call Twist Weekly for info.*

Saturday June 26 Big Bi Fun Club meets at 9pm at Bulldog News in the Broadway Market*

Sunday June 27 Seattle's Lesbian / Gay/ Bisexual/Transgender Pride March and Freedom Day Rally. All welcome to march with the Bisexual contingent. Call biphones for info about where and when to meet. At 6pm there is a Bi community potluck picnic in Volunteer park.*

Monday June 28 SBWN Newcomer's meeting, 7:15pm

Sunday July 4 SBWN meeting, 6pm

Tuesday July 6 Meeting at Lizabeth's to discuss the newsletter: ideas, goals, future, etc. All welcome*

Thursday July 8 BiNet meeting at Elizabeth's, 7pm*

Saturday July 10 Big Bi Fun Club meets at 9pm at Bulldog News in the Broadway Market*

Sunday July 11 SBMU meeting, 7pm, SCCC portable B107. Discussion topic: Fat issues

Monday July 12 SBWN Newcomer's meeting, 7:15pm

Thursday July 15 Deadline for submissions to August/September issue of North Bi Northwest*

Thursday July 15 Bi-Lines meeting, 7pm at Cory's.*

Sunday July 18 SBWN meeting, 6pm

Saturday July 24 Big Bi Fun Club meets at 9pm at Bulldog News in the Broadway Market*

Sunday July 25 SBMU social, call bi-phone for info.

Monday July 26 SBWN Newcomer's group meeting, 7:15pm

Tuesday July 27 Newsletter stuffing party, 7pm, Erica's.*

Saturday August 21-Sunday August 22 Northwest Regional BiNet camping trip, call BiNet for info.*

*denotes multi-gender events

The Bisexual contingent waves to a supportive crowd at the March on Washington *photo by Drew*